

Brookport. R. I.

Nov. 28. 1875

My dear Kedman

I have been
reading your book with great
enjoyment; its carefulness,
thoroughness, delicacy of criticism
& fine expression make it a kind
of most very rare among us;
far beyond that of Whipple for
instance, which is apt to have
a note of commonplace. It is
a marvel even to a man so
habitually industrious as myself,
that you have been able to
accomplish it amid the
drawbacks of ill-health &
pre-occupation.

To some of your minor
criticisms I should do'cent; for
instance I think that you place
Matthew Arnold far too high
— he seeming to me to land
among the fourth rates as a poet,
whatever the merit of his prose.
Then I think you dismiss Charles
(Turner) Kempton with undue
contempt; I have always thought
there was a great deal of
delicate feeling & feeling in his
sonnets. Per contra I am
delighted with your tribute to
Keats, whom I think quite
under-estimated, as you do.

The only serious fault
I find with the book is what
seems to me the looseness of
Quaker in two passages;
pp. XIII. 125. In those I

asking dialogue & holes) read them with great interest.
It is not true as you think, and as we that
there is not a lack of inspiring there or historic
facts, of dramatic contrast & broken'd. & that
on 1 hr. eng'd at length in my American
in literature" (Cottrell's essay) it is the dramatic
story of the future which is overshadowing the
Constitutional & the individual is really a great
more notable & a far higher style of contrast.
I am almost indifferent when you speak of the
"human treatment of a man" that England etc.
— then if you please but not necessarily human.

Emerson & Hawthorne certainly
do not find it perfectly
banned, though the latter in
one moment of depression
made a similar remark.

The strength of Whittier
has been in finding all needed
elements of poetry at home.
Pardon me if I say this,
but really I read those passages
with a feeling of real grief.

Nonetheless I thank
you for the book as a whole,
most cordially.

Yours ever

Thos. Wentworth Higginson